

## Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAB-01

A-01 OPR-02 AID-05 SY-05 /083 W  
----- 032869

O 161601Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6761

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1519

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINR, LE

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF SYRIAN TROOP MOVEMENT INTO LEBANON

REF: (A) BEIRUT 2332; (B) DATT IR 6891 012276 DTG 161501Z MAR

(C) DATT TEL AVIV IR 6 849 0102 76 DTG 161435Z MAR

1. NONE OF US IN AREA APPEAR ABLE TO SPEAK CATEGORICALLY ABOUT MOVEMENT OF SYRIANS INTO LEBANON WITHIN LAST FEW DAYS. MOST POPULAR REPORT, ATTRIBUTED TO SAEB SALAM, THAT 1,000 SYRIAN TROOPS CROSSED BORDER MARCH 15, HAS BEEN GIVEN WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE.

2. SYRIANS KNOW THE DANGERS OF INTRODUCING THEIR REGULARS INTO LEBANON. THE STATEMENT OF ISRAEL'S DEFMIN PERES MARCH 14 SERVED ONLY TO DOT THE I'S. WHY WOULD DAMASCUS RISK SENDING ONLY 1,000 SYRIAN REGULARS INTO LEBANON, A NUMBER INADEQUATE FOR ANY MAJOR OPERATION  
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BUT QUITE ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY AN ISRAELI ATTACK? IF THERE

HAS BEEN SUCH MOVEMENT, THIS EMBASSY FINDS MOST CONVINCING  
EXPLANATION THUSFAR IN DATT DAMASCUS COMMENT OF REFTEL B.

3. THAT SAIQA AND ELEMENTS OF THE PLA TOGETHER REPRESENT  
SYRIA'S BEST DISCIPLINED INSTRUMENTS IN LEBANESE SITUATION  
IS BEYOND QUESTION. DATT SPECULATION THAT SYRIAN AUTHORITIES  
MAY HAVE CULLED UP TO 1,000 MEN FROM VARIETY OF SYRIAN  
UNITS (WHICH STILL CONTAIN PALESTINIANS) TO STRENGTHEN  
PLA/SAIQA MIGHT WELL HAVE SEEMED TO SYRIAN AUTHORITIES THE  
LEAST RISKY WAY TO INJECT A BIT MORE OF THEIR MUSCLE INTO  
TURBULENT LEBANESE SCENE. ANY OTHER EXPLANATION WOULD  
SEEM VIOLATE MILITARY PRINCIPLE OF PRESERVING UNIT  
INTEGRITY.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TROOP DEPLOYMENT, INTERVENTION, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchant0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976DAMASC01519  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Film Number:** D760098-1137  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PINR, MPOL, SY, LE, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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